

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An improved process for the enhanced impregnation of cellulose-based products, particularly wood, comprising treatment of the product with linseed oil at an increased temperature under pressure in an autoclave, comprising the steps:

- a) charging the autoclave with the product to be treated,
- b) charging the autoclave with a composition consisting essentially of linseed oil heated to a temperature exceeding the boiling point of water so that the product will be surrounded by linseed oil,
- c) applying vacuum to the autoclave while keeping the temperature constant, water in the form of steam and air enclosed in the product being released from the product,
- d) discharging the linseed oil from the autoclave with the simultaneous supply of linseed oil at a temperature lower than the boiling point of water and preferably applying over-pressure to the autoclave, and
- e) discharging the cold oil from the autoclave which, optionally, for the removal of excess oil from the product is again set under vacuum, whereafter the impregnated product ~~which exhibits optimal uptake of linseed oil~~ is removed from the autoclave.

2. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein in step b) the linseed oil is heated to a temperature of about 140 to 180°C.

3. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein in step d) the autoclave is set under an over-pressure of up to about 15 bar.

4. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein in step d) the temperature of the cold linseed oil is maintained within the range about 75 to 85° C.

5. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein in step d) the over-pressure is from about 5 bar to about 12 bar.

6. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the impregnation is carried out with a processed linseed oil substantially consisting of linolenic acid, linolic acid and oleic acid, mainly in the form of triglycerides, the contents of the oil of free tocoferol being less than about 100 ppm.

7. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 6, wherein the contents of free tocoferol of the linseed oil is less than about 75 ppm.

8. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 7, wherein the contents of free tocoferol of the linseed oil is less than about 50 ppm.

9. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the product in a further final step is dried in an air flow at environmental temperature.

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 2, wherein in step d) the autoclave is set under an over-pressure of up to about 15 bar.

12. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 2, wherein in step d) the temperature of the cold linseed oil is maintained within the range about 75 to 85° C.

13. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 3, wherein in step d) the temperature of the cold linseed oil is maintained within the range about 75 to 85° C.

14. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 2, wherein in step d) the over-pressure is from about 5 bar to about 12 bar.

15. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 3, wherein in step d) the over-pressure is from about 5 bar to about 12 bar.

16. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 2, wherein the impregnation is carried out with a processed linseed oil substantially consisting of linolenic acid, linolic acid and oleic acid, mainly in the form of triglycerides, the contents of the oil of free tocoferol being less than about 100 ppm.

17. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 3, wherein the impregnation is carried out with a processed linseed oil substantially consisting of linolenic acid, linolic acid and oleic acid, mainly in the form of triglycerides, the contents of the oil of free tocoferol being less than about 100 ppm.

18. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 2, wherein the product in a further final step is dried in an air flow at environmental temperature.

19. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 2, wherein the product in a further final step is dried in an air flow at environmental temperature.

20. (Cancelled).